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Advertisements inserted at the usual rates. Job Printing done with neatness and dispatch.

Office in South Baltimore street, directly opposite Wampler's Printing Establishment—“Compiler Printing Office” on the sign.

Adams County
MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.
Incorporated March 18, 1851.

President—George Swope.
Vice President—H. Russell.
Secretary—D. A. Russell.
Treasurer—David McCreary.
Executive Committee—Robert McCurdy, Jacob King, Andrew Heintzelman, D. A. Russell, James A. Marshall, S. F. Farnsworth, Wm. B. McClellan, A. B. Wilson, M. Eichlerberger, Abel F. Gitt John W. Ford, H. A. Pickens, Albert Wright John H. Foster, H. C. McCreary, S. B. Russell, D. W. Cressy, Andrew Volney, John Pickens, J. B. Marsh.

This Company is limited in its operations to the county of Adams. It has been successful in its operations for more than six years, and in that period has paid all losses and expenses, without any assessment, having a large surplus capital in the Treasury. The Company employs no Agents—All business being done by the stockholders, who are annually elected by the stockholders. Any person desiring to become a stockholder, or to become a member of the Executive Committee, may apply to any of the above named Managers for further information.

The Executive Committee meets at the office of the Company on the last Wednesday in every month, at 12 P. M.

Sept. 27, 1861.

“The Union.”
1001 STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA.
CAPTAIN S. NEWCOMB, Proprietor.

This Union is a central, consistent, and powerful organ to all parts of the city, and is published for the purpose of giving the people of the city a full and complete view of the business of the city, and of the world.

Terms \$1.50 per copy.
Sept. 27, 1861.

A Ready Market.
100,000 BUSHELS OF GRAIN WANTED.
We have taken the large estate of the late John H. Russell, and have a large quantity of grain, and other produce, for sale. We are prepared to take orders for grain, and other produce, and to deliver the same at the lowest possible price.

DEBIL, BRINKERHOFF & CO.
April 24, 1861.

The Great Discovery.
OIL, GAS, AND COAL.
The discovery of oil, gas, and coal, in the State of Pennsylvania, is a great discovery, and one of the most important of the age. It is a discovery which will revolutionize the world, and will give to the people of the world a new source of power, and of wealth.

New National Loan.
SIX PER CENT. INTEREST.
The new national loan, at six per cent interest, is now open for subscription. It is a loan which will be used for the purpose of raising money for the government, and for the purpose of paying the interest on the same.

Tailoring.
OUR KUMMERBART respectfully informs his friends and the public that he has commenced the TAILORING business in Carlisle street, Gettysburg, at the old stand of J. B. Reisinger, where he hopes to receive a liberal share of patronage. He warrants all his work to fit, and the making to be satisfactory. He is regularly in receipt of the Fashions, so that he will be able to please all tastes. Give him a trial.

Townley Ahead.
THE undersigned respectfully informs the public that he continues the CARRIAGE MAKING and REPAIRING business at all his different farms, cheaper than any shop in the county. All work warranted to give satisfaction. For further particulars, please call on him at his place.

A. M. TOWNLEY.
Gettysburg, June 24, 1861.

John W. Tipton.
FASHIONABLE BARBER, North-east corner of the Diamond, (next door to McClellan's Hotel), Gettysburg, Pa., where he can be found ready to attend to all business in his line. He has also excellent facilities and will ensure satisfaction. Give him a call.

(Dec. 3, 1860.)

Hay Rake.
SHEPARD & BERLINER have on hand two Rake RAY and GRASS RAKE, which will be sold at low rates. This is a fine opportunity for Farmers to secure a valuable labor and time saving implement. Call and look at them.

(May 27, 1861.)

TYSON'S fifty cent pictures are securely sealed. Tyson's fifty cent pictures are water proof. Tyson's fifty cent pictures are entirely durable. Tyson's fifty cent pictures are unassailable. Tyson's fifty cent pictures are warranted. Tyson's fifty cent pictures are put up in large and small cases.

(Oct. 21, 1861.)

TYSON BROTHERS have the agency for CARPENT, NEWMAN & CO.'S MELLODONS. These instruments are unsurpassed for beauty and sweetness of tone. A specimen can be seen and tested by calling at their Gallery, Fort street, opposite the Bank of Gettysburg, Pa.

(Oct. 21.)

Ayer's Cathartic Pills.

The Compiler

A DEMOCRATIC AND FAMILY JOURNAL.

By H. J. STAHL.

44th Year.

GETTYSBURG, PA., MONDAY, DEC. 23, 1861.

TWO DOLLARS A-YEAR.

NO. 13.

The Muse.

THE PICKET GUARD.

“All quiet along the Potomac,” they say,
“Except now and then a stray picket
Shot as he walks on his beat to and fro,
By a rifleman in the thicket.”

‘Tis nothing—a private or two now and then,
Will not count in the news of the battle,
Not an officer lost—only one of the men,
Mourning out, all alone, the death rattle.”

All quiet along the Potomac, to-night,
Where the soldiers lie peacefully dreaming,
Their tents in the rays of the clear autumn moon.

Or the light of the watch-fires, gleaming,
A tremulous sigh, as the gentle night wind
Through the forest leaves softly is creeping,
While stars up above, with their glittering eyes,
Keep guard for the army—sleeping.

There’s only the sound of the lone sentry’s tread,
As he tramps from the rock to the fountain,
And thinks of the two in the low trundle-bed,
Yet away in the cot on the mountain.

His market falls slack—his face dark and grim,
Grows gentle with memories tender,
As he utters a prayer for the children asleep,
For the mother—away Heaven defend her!

The moon comes to shine just as brightly as then,
That night, when the love yet unspoken,
Leaped up to his lips—when low murmured vows
Were pledged to be ever unbroken.

Then drawing his rifle roughly over his eyes,
He dashes off tears that are willing,
And gathers his gun closer up to his place,
As if to keep down the heart-swellings.

He passes the fountain, the hushed pine tree,
The footstep is lagging and weary;
Yet onward he goes through the broad belt of light,
Toward the shade of the forest so dreary.

Was it the moonlight so wondrously flashing?
It looked like a smile—“that Mary, good-bye!”
And the life-blood is ebbing and flashing,
All quiet along the Potomac, to-night.

No sound save the rush of the dead,
While soft fills the due on the face of the dead,
—The picket’s odd duty forever!

Miscellaneous.

The Power of Silence.
A good woman in Jersey was sadly annoyed by a quarrelsome neighbor, who often visited and provoked a quarrel. She at last sought the counsel of her pastor, who added some common sense to his other good qualities.

Having heard the story of her wrongs, he advised her to read herself quietly in the chimney corner when next visited, take the tongue in her hands, and whenever a hard word came from her neighbor’s lips, gently snap the tongue, without uttering a word. A day or two afterwards the woman came again to her pastor, with a bright and laughing face, to communicate the effect of this new antidote for scolding. Her neighbor had visited her, and, as usual, commenced her tirade. Snap! went the tongue. Another volley. Snap! Another still. Snap! “Why don’t you speak?” said the neighbor, more enraged. “Do speak!” she said, if you don’t speak!” and away she went, cursing her malady by the name of silence. It is poor work scolding a deaf man; it is profitless beating the air. One-sided controversies do not last long, and generally end in victory for the silent party.

A Strong Stomach.
A western cattle dealer, who rarely had the privilege of sitting down to meat with a family, and who had never been in a minister’s house in his life, was not long ago benighted and lost in his ride across the prairie, and compelled to ask for lodging in any house he could find. Happily for him, it was the house of a good man, a person, who gave him a hearty welcome, and, what was especially agreeable, told him supper would soon be ready. The traveler’s appetite was ravenous, and the moment he was asked to sit by, he complied, and without waiting for a second invitation, he laid hold of what he could reach.

“Stop, stop!” said the good man of the house; “we are in the habit of saying something here before we eat.”

This hint to wait until the blessing was asked, the rough customer did not understand; but, with his mouth full, he muttered:

“Go ahead; say what you like; you can’t turn my stomach now.”

An English Subject in Fort Warren.—The Toronto Leader publishes a letter written by Mr. J. I. Shaver, now a prisoner in Fort Warren. He styles himself “a loyal subject of her Majesty,” says that he is guilty of no offence against the United States government, and wants his friends to demand his release.

Canon at Cairo.—It is stated there are already one hundred and sixty-four pieces of cannon at Cairo, none of which are less than 32 pounders, and over one hundred tons of ammunition have arrived.

A Good Story.
Between eighty and ninety years ago there lived in Connecticut valley two farmers, one of whom was named Hunt and the other Clark. The former in early life had been a man of strong will and somewhat hasty and violent temper. Sometimes he had been seen beating his oxen over their heads with the handle of his whip, in a way to excite the pity of the bystanders, and when expostulated with excused himself by saying that he had the most fractious team in town. By and by an alteration took place in the temper of farmer Hunt. He became mild and forbearing, at equal pace with himself.

In the course of a few years the two farmers were chosen deacons of the church and they both adorned their professions. About the time of their election, a grievous famine prevailed in the valley, and the farmers generally were employed in laying up their corn to plant the ensuing season. A poor man living in town, went to Deacon Hunt and said: “I have come to lay a bushel of corn. Here is the money; it is all I can gather.” The deacon told him he could not spare a bushel for love of money. He was keeping double the usual quantity for seed corn the next year, and had to stint his own family. The man urged his suit in vain. At last he said, “Deacon, if you do not let me have the corn, I shall curse you.” “Curse me!” replied the deacon, “how dare you do so?” “Because,” said the man, “the Bible says so.” “Nonsense,” exclaimed the deacon; “there is no such thing in the Bible.” “Yes, there is,” replied the poor man. “Well,” said the deacon, “if you can find such a text, I’ll give you a bushel of corn.”

They went to the house, where the poor man went to the old family Bible, turned to Proverbs 11:26, and read, “He that withholdeth the corn, the people shall curse him; but blessings shall be upon the head of the sower.”

The deacon was fairly caught. “Come along, and I will be your good man,” said he. He took him to the corn house, measured out a bushel of corn and helped the man to put it on his shoulder, and just before his departure, being somewhat of a wag, he said with a twinkle of the eye, “I say, neighbor, after you have carried this corn home, go to Deacon Clark and curse him out of a bushel.”

Did Not Take a Soldier for a Son-in-Law.
A few years since, Gen. McClellan offered his hand in marriage to Miss Ellen Mary, a beautiful and accomplished daughter of Col. Mary, of the U. S. A. Col. Mary objected to the union, on the sole ground that he could not consent to the marriage of his daughter to any gentleman belonging to the army. McClellan at once resigned his commission, and accepted the place of Chief Engineer upon the Illinois Central Railroad at a salary of \$8,000 a year, and three years since he was married to Miss Mary, and now, having re-entered the army, is General Commanding-in-Chief.

A patriotic landlady says by one of our exchanges, in her desire to emulate the generosity of city governments and other corporations in continuing the wages of absent soldiers, has given notice that if any of her boarders will enlist, she will allow their board to run right on, all the time. Can the spirit of generous devotion to the interests of the country go any further than this?

Expatriate Slave Cases.—A Clergyman Punished.—Rev. Geo. Gordon, president of Liberia College, Ohio, has been convicted of resisting a U. S. Marshal in an attempt to capture a fugitive slave, and sentenced to imprisonment for six months, and payment of a fine and the costs of prosecution, amounting to fifteen hundred dollars.

Charles Sumner, U. S. Senator from Massachusetts, was invited to deliver an address before the Soldiers’ Relief Society of Haverhill, Mass., a short time since, and did so. And he charged and received \$25 for his services! If any man in this country has done a meaner thing considering all the circumstances, we have failed to notice it.

In his last message Gov. Leitch says, that Virginia has now in the field 70,000 rebels, and that the expenditures of the State since April last have been six millions of dollars. He deprecates the defection of Western Virginia, and the unhappy condition of Maryland, but declares that there can be no compromise with the “Lincoln Government.” The war is to be war to the death.

A New Counterfeit.—The bogus bill is out of the denomination of \$2, and purports to be the issue of the Farmers’ Bank of Schuylkill County. On the lower right corner is a medallion of Washington, and on the right end a female figure in a standing position. Let our merchants and citizens generally keep a look out for the new deception; it is reported to be well executed.

A Good Suggestion.—We endorse the suggestion of a contemporary that each subscriber to a good newspaper, after the family have read it, should put it up and send it with a one cent stamp to some friend in the army. Nothing is more welcome to the soldier than a home newspaper which gives all the local news, deaths, marriages, &c.

Fancy runs most furiously when a guilty conscience drives it.

The venom of a slanderous tongue ultimately poisons its own possessor.

Report of the Secretary of the Treasury.
Mr. Chase, the Secretary of the Treasury, submitted his annual report to Congress, on Monday week. Thereport is very lengthy and one of great importance, as in it we have the expenses of the government placed before us and the suggestions of the Secretary as to how the money is to be raised to meet the indebtedness. He says the expenses of the government, on the present army and navy footing for the year ending June 30, 1862, will be \$43,406,422. This amount he thinks will be raised as follows:

From Customs, lands, &c.	\$ 36,809,731
Loans already realized	197,242,598
Loans authorized	75,449,075
Proceeds of direct tax	20,000,000
Total	\$329,501,404

This leaves a deficit of \$213,904,428, to be provided for. This deficit he proposes to raise in three ways. The direct taxes of the loyal States to furnish twenty millions; duties on liquors, tobacco and other luxuries, twenty millions more; and the tax on incomes, ten millions. To make up the balance he proposes that the government shall take the place of compound bank notes.

In order to raise revenue he recommends the taxing of tobacco, bank notes, carriages, legacies, stills and distilled liquors; and a further increase of duties on sugars, tea and coffee.

He thinks the war will be ended by the middle of next summer, but still he makes estimates for another year of warfare, after the 30th of June next. He estimates the amount of the national debt on the 1st of July, 1863, at one hundred millions of dollars.

Northern Disunionists.
There are a great many disunionists in the northern States—some fear there are a greater number than most good people are apt to imagine. These enemies of the Union are continually prating about “slavery being the cause of the war,” “slavery must be abolished before the war can stop.” Men who talk this way are no regard for the Constitution, and are as bad as armed secessionists. The Government has no authority to abolish slavery in any State, and were it to do so it would be an act of usurpation, alike despotic in character and ruinous in its consequences. It would destroy the Union.

Arrangements for increasing the force in Canada are not yet complete, but in a very few hours everything will be settled. In the meantime a large ship, the Melbourne, has been taken up and is now being loaded with ammunition, guns, and other stores at Woodstock. It is not impossible that this vessel will be escorted by one or two ships of war. The rifles are for the Canadian military, and strong reinforcements of field artillery will be dispatched forthwith.

Lord Lyons’ instructions, in which the Cabinet are said to be unanimous, are explicit and determined.

The Post says an acknowledgment of the error and a surrender of the prisoners will be received with great joy, but if the Federal government fails to do so, no man in England will blind his eyes to the alternative that England must do her duty.

The Times continues to assert that it has been Mr. Seward’s policy to force a quarrel with England, and calls for energetic military preparations in Canada.

There has been a serious decline daily taking place in Canadian securities, amounting to 12 per cent.

The Times predicts three things to immediately follow the outbreak—namely: the destruction of the Southern blockade; the complete blockade of the Northern ports; and the recognition of the Southern Confederacy by France and England.

The Patrie argues pretty clearly that France will side with England and recognize the Southern Confederacy, and take a decided attitude in the international question.

The Liverpool Post gives a rumor that Napoleon has been proposed as arbitrator of the question between England and the United States.

The Americans in Paris paid a complimentary visit to Gen. Scott—Mr. Dayton acting as chairman.

THREE DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.
Arrival of the Steamer Washington off Cape Race.

St. John’s, N. F., Dec. 15.—The newsboat of the associated press has arrived from Cape Race with the advices of the steamer City of Washington, from Liverpool via Queenstown on the 5th, intercepted off that point.

Queenstown, December 5.—The excitement in reference to the Silldell and Mason affair continues unabated.

The Paris Times repeats the statement that Napoleon has tendered his services as a mediator.

A letter from Gen. Scott in favor of maintaining friendly relations between England and America attracts much attention.

The exportation of arms, ammunition and lead are prohibited.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT FROM ENGLAND.
GREAT EXCITEMENT OVER THE SILLDELL AND MASON AFFAIR.
A Queen’s Messenger Sent with Despatches to Lord Lyons to Demand the Restoration of the Persons of the Southern Envoys.

VIEWS OF THE BRITISH PRESS.
HALIFAX, Dec. 15.—The Europa arrived here to-day from Liverpool, on the 30th ult., and Queenstown on the 2d inst., where she was detained until Monday, by order of the British government. She has the Queen’s messenger on board, with despatches for Lord Lyons.

LONDON, Dec. 1st.—The Observer states that the government will demand from President Lincoln and his cabinet the restoration of the persons of the southern envoys to the British government.

Yesterday afternoon after five o’clock her Majesty held a Privy Council at Windsor Castle. Three of her Majesty’s ministers, including the First Lord of Admiralty and Secretary of State and War, travelled from London to Windsor by special train to be present. Previous to leaving town, the three ministers had attended a cabinet council at Lord Palmerston’s official residence.

The Observer says a special messenger of foreign affairs has been ordered to carry out demands to Lord Lyons, and will proceed by packet from Queenstown to-day. The public will be satisfied to know that these demands are for an apology, and to insist on a restitution to the protection of the British flag of those who were violently and illegally torn from that sacred asylum.

The Observer adds: “There is no person why they should not be restored to the quarter-deck of a British Admiral at New York, or Washington itself, in the face of ten or twelve men of war, whose presence in the Potomac would render the Northern Cabinet at Washington as helpless as the Treaty was before the guns and cannon of the San Jacinto. It is no fault of ours if it should come even to this.”

Arrangements for increasing the force in Canada are not yet complete, but in a very few hours everything will be settled. In the meantime a large ship, the Melbourne, has been taken up and is now being loaded with ammunition, guns, and other stores at Woodstock. It is not impossible that this vessel will be escorted by one or two ships of war. The rifles are for the Canadian military, and strong reinforcements of field artillery will be dispatched forthwith.

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The Paris Patrie has an editorial forecasting the disposition of France to recognize the Southern Confederacy if England sets the example.

The Daily News rejoices that Congress meets before the English demands can get out to America, and hopes that the golden opportunity will not be lost.

A large number of naval vessels have been ordered to be ready for immediate commission.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS—BASIS OF THE OPINION OF THE PRESS.
The London Times says the depositions of the officers of the Trent have been submitted to the law officers of the crown, and their opinion has been given that the pro-

ceedings of the American frigate are not justified by the law of nations. It is, we understand, the opinion of these jurists that the right of the Federal government, acting by its officers, was confined to the visiting and the searching of the mail packet; that if any men or things, believed to be contraband of war, had been found on board of her, the proper course was to take her into port and submit the question to the prize courts, which would bear evidence and argument on both sides, and would have decided the case according to precedent and authorities. The Times observes that this proposition seems so clear that it requires only to be stated to obtain universal assent. The cabinet meets on Friday, to consider what action shall be taken on the opinion of the law officers. We do not wish to speculate as to what steps they may consider necessary. If Mason and Silldell were wrongly taken, they must be restored with sufficient apology.

The London Times of the 30th ult. makes the important announcement that the cabinet has come to the conclusion that the act of the captain of the San Jacinto in seizing passengers on a British vessel and carrying them forcibly away is a clear violation of the laws of nations, and one for which reparation must be at once demanded. In all probability the first steamer will carry out instructions to Lord Lyons to demand reparation for the ill-advised act of seizing Mason and Silldell while under the British flag. Should this just demand not be complied with, we cannot doubt that Lord Lyons will, under the instructions of his government, withdraw with the British legation from Washington.

We hope, says the Post, that the U. S. government will at once disavow the act of their officer, and make every compensation in their power. Wild as the words written and spoken by Secretary Seward, and reckless as the American policy not unfrequently is, we can hardly suppose that the northern States are seriously disposed to accept a war with England.

We have in the American waters including the Mexican expedition, and ships already there, a force amounting to not far short of one thousand guns, which we could largely increase with the greatest ease and rapidly. In one month we could sweep all the San Jacinto from the sea, blockade the Northern ports to turn to a direct and speedy issue the tide of war now raging. This is so obvious that we find it almost impossible to suppose that the Cabinet at Washington can commit an act so madly suicidal as to reject our earnest and positive demands.

NAVAL VOLUNTEERS AND ARMY REINFORCEMENTS.
The export of saltpetre and warlike stores was formally forbidden. It was stated that one ship with a large cargo of saltpetre for America had been stopped, and that the re-landing of warlike stores, already shipped, had been required.

The naval volunteers were offering to come forward to protect the honor of the British flag.

The London News says: “Beneath everything there exists an undercurrent of apprehension lest the American government really contemplate the desperate policy of seeking to fasten a quarrel on Great Britain, in order to gain a standing ground for abandoning its design of subjugating herself.”

The London Times (city article) says: “The universal impression seems to be that, in the present unhappy position in the eyes of the world, the United States government can scarcely command themselves so as to regulate their course by the light of law, reason or courtesy, and that although this opens a wide field of danger, it should also stimulate all other nations to exercise the utmost forbearance.”

The Newport Argus, speaking of the Thanksgiving Sermons preached in Boston, says: “If these sermons are to be regarded as the voice of the Boston Pulpit, they settle the question as to the object of the war, as the Pulpit understands it. They all unite in affirming that it is to put down the slave power. They all say so, in plain English. But the President, in the meantime, persists in declaring that such is not his purpose. Now, why don’t he just send these Rev. gentlemen down to Fort Warren, as he has other people who have borne false witness against him? He might do so without either making or breaking anybody, if the Fort didn’t gain more from the Pulpit would lose by such an operation.”

The President and the Union.—Washington letters say the pressure upon the President, to drive him into revolutionary and radical Abolitionism, has been great, very great, but he has withstood it so far, like a President, and his foot seems to be down. If now this policy becomes the fixed policy, and the South can read it, hear it, feel it, Unionism will crop out more and more, in Virginia, North Carolina, East Tennessee, and New Orleans. The out throat policy of the Abolitionists is eternal war; while that of the President.—The Union must and shall be preserved.—is the talisman of reunion everywhere.

The Illinois Central Railroad Company are playing a very large game at cribbage. Along the line of their road, twelve miles south of Chicago, they are building eleven miles of corn cribs, the capacity of which will be 3,000,000 bushels. They are to receive corn in payment for lands purchased of the Company.

A man in Boston is exhibiting a new invention by which he makes boots in fifteen minutes.

Intelligence concerning the contrabands at Fort Royal is the old story, “doing nothing,” “eating,” “sleeping,” “selling masters’ chickens, sweet potatoes,” &c.—“They won’t work for love or for money!” The N. Y. Express thinks when everything attainable is exhausted, they will steal from us, or work just enough to keep soul and body together, upon rations we sell them.

The railway carriages in France are now warmed very comfortably by means of the exhausted steam from the engines.

A Large Cannon.—One of the largest cannon ever made in this country, was cast at Algiers’ foundry, at South Boston, on Saturday week, under the inspection of Captain Taylor, of the United States Navy. It weighed 30,000 pounds.

Counterfeit two dollar notes on the Allegheny Bank of Pittsburgh are in circulation in the interior of Pennsylvania.

If time is money, some people have a good deal more than they know what to do with.

Those who lead not God’s will, are ten fold to heed the Spirit’s.

GREAT FIRE AT CHARLESTON, S. C.
Baltimore, S. C., 30 miles from Charleston, Dec. 12.—Passengers who have just arrived here report a destructive fire last night at Charleston. The fire commenced in Charleston last night, Dec. 11, at 9 o’clock, in Russell & Co.’s sash factory, at the foot of Hazel street, and communicated on the opposite side of Hazel to Cameron & Co.’s machine shops. Under the impulse thus given, and a stiff breeze, with a small supply of water, the conflagration assumed a formidable character, nearly equaling the most extensive conflagration on the American continent. The theatre, Floyd’s coach factory, opposite the express office, the old executive building and all the houses between that point and Queen street were burned. The whole of one side of Broad street is destroyed, from Colonel Gadsden’s residence to Mvach street, and a considerable portion of the city, from East Bay to King street, is destroyed.

Among the prominent buildings burned are the Institute and St. Andrew’s Hall, Theatre, Catholic Cathedral and the Circular Church. At last accounts from Charleston up to five o’clock this morning, Dec. 12th, the fire had crossed Broad street, and was sweeping furiously on. The telegraph lines to Charleston are down, consequently we are not able to state whether the fire has ceased or not.

BRANCHVILLE, Dec. 12th, 5 P. M.—The fire is still raging. A thousand household persons are huddled in the streets. The express train left Augusta this afternoon, with provisions to supply the wants of the sufferers, and men to assist in controlling the fire. The fire was the work of an incendiary.

In extent, the fire, so far as known, embraced a district of the city over one-half a mile long by one fourth wide.

The city of Charleston has suffered greater disasters by fire than almost any other city in the United States. In 1778 there were two hundred and fifty-two houses consumed; in 1790 nearly a third of the city was destroyed, involving a loss of property to the amount of \$2,500,000. Again, in the great fire of 1838, the loss was estimated at \$5,000,000.

A Prediction.—The Mr. Vernon Banner says: “We predict that in less than one year from this time the Abolitionists will be denouncing President Lincoln as they denounced John Tyler in 1841, when he refused to carry out their darling measures. And we further predict that the Republican party will go to destruction by the weight of its corruption, and that our present difficulties will be at length settled by the Democracy.”

In consequence of the payment of several months wages to the volunteers of Lehigh county, by the Government, the County Commissioners have concluded to temporarily suspend the payment of the weekly allowance to their families, on the ground that if the earnings of the soldiers are properly appropriated there is no pecuniary assistance necessary from other sources.

The New York Journal of Commerce says that “New York City could send a petition with the names of 50,000 voters at least, and we think it safe to say with sixty thousand, against the pet schemes of the Abolitionists. We have said that the President might one day find his firmest supporters in the Democrats. The day seems to be at hand. Conservative Republicans and Democrats must rally to the support of the President, the Constitution and the Union.”

Senator Wilson having got up a bill to abolish the office of sutler in the army, some law firm in Washington City has hatched a scheme to make money out of the sutlers by raising a large fund to defeat the bill. A circular soliciting money has been sent to each sutler. Will this be permitted.

The Albany Argus says Mr. Croswell’s letter, which the Emancipators have claimed as favorable to their views, “an argument against the emancipation policy, and which declared that the advocates of emancipation are laboring, as effectually as the Secessionists, for the dissolution of the Union.”

The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Inquirer says it appears to be well settled that Mr. Lincoln is President, and this being now fully understood, there should be no occasion for Cabinet difficulties hereafter like those which have just occurred.

A proposition for enlisting 200,000 additional volunteers will be introduced in Congress, and it is understood to meet the approval of the Secretary of War.

Ladies Included.—A few days since, Saxe, in making a speech at a flag raising at Albany, concluded his remarks by proposing three cheers for the young gentlemen of East Albany, through whose liberality the flag had been procured. As the cheers were about to be given, the chairman of the occasion amended the proposition of Mr. Saxe, so that the cheers went up for the young ladies as well as the young gentlemen of East Albany. When the voice of the cheers became silent, Saxe arose and gave an explanation, and as an apology for omitting to speak of the young ladies in his original proposition for cheers, that he thought the young ladies always embraced the young gentlemen.

Intelligence concerning the contrabands at Fort Royal is the old story, “doing nothing,” “eating,” “sleeping,” “selling masters’ chickens, sweet potatoes,” &c.—“They won’t work for love or for money!” The N. Y. Express thinks when everything attainable is exhausted, they will steal from us, or work just enough to keep soul and body together, upon rations we sell them.

The railway carriages in France are now warmed very comfortably by means of the exhausted steam from the engines.

A Large Cannon.—One of the largest cannon ever made in this country, was cast at Algiers’ foundry, at South Boston, on Saturday week, under the inspection of Captain Taylor, of the United States Navy. It weighed 30,000 pounds.

Counterfeit two dollar notes on the Allegheny Bank of Pittsburgh are in circulation in the interior of Pennsylvania.

If time is money, some people have a good deal more than they know what to do with.

Those who lead not God’s will, are ten fold to heed the Spirit’s.

1990

...the ...

For Sky-High Gallery.

opposite the Bank, in York st. [Nov. 23. 1841.]

1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

The COMPILER is published every Monday morning, by HENRY J. STAHL, at \$1 75 per annum in advance—\$2 00 per annum if not paid in advance. No subscription discontinued, unless at the option of the publisher, until all arrearages are paid.

Advertisements inserted at the usual rates. Job Printing done with neatness and dispatch.

Office in South Baltimore street, directly opposite Wampler's Tinning Establishment—“Compiler Printing Office” on the sign.

Adams County
MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY
Incorporated March 16, 1861.
OFFICERS.
President—George Swope.
Vice President—S. R. Russell.
Secretary—A. A. Buehler.
Treasurer—David McCreary.
Executive Committee—Robert McCurdy, Jacob King, Andrew Heintzelman.
Messengers—George Swope, D. A. Buehler, Jacob King, A. Heintzelman, R. McCurdy, Thos. A. Marshall, S. Finkelstein, Wm. B. McMillan, S. A. M. Wilson, H. C. Buehler, John F. Felt, John Ward, H. B. Picking, Albert Wright, John Horner, R. G. McCurdy, S. R. Russell, D. McCreary, Andrew Polley, John Picking, J. R. Marsh.

This Company is limited in its operations to the county of Adams. It has been in successful operation for more than six years, and in that period has paid all losses and expenses, without any assessment, having a large surplus capital in the Treasury. The Company employs no Agents—all business being done by the Messengers, who are annually elected by the Stockholders. Any person desiring an Insurance can apply to any of the above named Messengers for further information.

The Executive Committee meets at the office of the Company on the last Wednesday in every month, at 2 P. M.

Sept. 27, 1862.

“The Union.”
1000 ST. STREET, ABOVE THIRD PHILADELPHIA, PA.
A. P. TONSON, Proprietor.

This Union is central, convenient for Passengers Cars to all parts of the city, and adapted in every particular to the comfort and convenience of the business public.

Terms \$1.50 per day.

Sept. 22, 1861.

A Ready Market.
RESIDUES GRAIN WANT.
We have taken the business of the city, and with a determination to pay the highest market prices for all kinds of Grain. You will find us supplied with P. L. STERILIZED GRAIN of all kinds. Groceries, Wholesale and Retail. COAL, and every other article in our line of business, sold at the lowest possible rates for Cash. Call and examine our stock and prices before you give elsewhere.

DEHL, BRINKERHOFF & CO.
April 24, 1861.

The Great Discovery
THE AGE—Inflammation, and Chronic Rheumatism, can be cured by the use of MILLER'S RHEUMATIC MIXTURE. Many prominent citizens of this, and the adjoining counties have testified to its great utility. Its success in Rheumatic affections has been hitherto unparalleled by any specific. Introduced to the public, Price 50 cents per bottle. For sale by all druggists and chemists. Prepared only by H. L. MILLER, Philadelphia, and Retail Druggists East Berlin, Adams county, Pa., dealer in Drugs, Chemicals, &c. Oils, Varnishes, Spirits, Paints, Dye-stuffs, &c. J. O. Oils, Essences and Tinctures. Window Glass Perfumery, Patent Medicines, &c. &c. H. L. MILLER is the agent in Gettysburg for H. L. Miller's Rheumatic Mixture.

June 4, 1861.

New National Loan.
THREE MONTHS PER CENT.
TREASURY NOTES, now ready for delivery at the office of JAY COOKE & CO., Bankers, No. 114 South Third Street, Philadelphia.

Persons desiring to subscribe to the National Loan, should apply to the Secretary of the Treasury, the Subscription Book to the NEW NATIONAL LOAN, and the terms of interest of the rate of seven and three-tenths per cent., per annum, will remain open at my office, No. 114 S. THIRD STREET, until further notice, from 8 A. M. till 5 P. M., and on Mornings till 9 P. M.

These notes, all of the denomination of FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS, ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS, and FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS, are all dated 1st of August, 1861, payable to call in three years, or convertible into a twenty years five per cent. loan, at the option of the holder. Each Treasury Note is interest-bearing from the date of its issue, and the date the redemption reaches Philadelphia is the rate of one cent per day on each fifty dollars. Apply to me at a address.

JAY COOKE, Subscription Agent,
Care of Jay Cooke & Co., Bankers,
No. 114 South Third Street, Philad.,
Oct. 14, 1861.

Tailoring.
LOUIS KUMMERAT respectfully informs his friends and the public that he has commenced the TAILORING business, in Carlisle street, Gettysburg, at the old stand of J. Seiler & Co., where he hopes to receive a liberal share of patronage. He warrants all his work to fit, and the making to be substantial. He is regularly in receipt of the Fashions, so that he will be able to please all tastes. Give him a trial.

Louis Kummerat also removes Grease from all Stains from Clothing, in a short time, and at moderate charges. Satisfaction guaranteed.

Oct. 4, 1861.

Townsend Head.
THE undersigned respectfully informs his friends and customers the CARRIAGE MAKING AND REPAIRING business in all its different forms, cheaper than any shop in the county. All work warranted to give satisfaction. Carriage produce taken in exchange for work at market prices.

A. M. TOWNSELY,
Gettysburg, June 24, 1861.

John W. Tipton.
FASHIONABLE BARBER, North-east corner of the Diamond, (next door to McClellan's Hotel), Gettysburg, Pa., where he can at all times be found ready to attend to all business in his line. He has also excellent facilities and will ensure satisfaction. Give him a call.

Dec. 3, 1860.

Hay Rake.
SHRADER & BUEHLER have on hand two SHADERS HAY and GRASS RAKES, which will be sold at low rates. This is a fine opportunity for Farmers to secure a valuable labor and time saving implement. Call and look at them.

May 27, 1861.

RAYSON'S fifty cent pictures are water proof. Twenty-five cent pictures are entirely durable. Twenty-five cent pictures are unsurpassed. Twenty-five cent pictures are warranted. Twenty-five cent pictures are as well as any other. Call and see them.

Oct. 21, 1861.

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Oct. 21, 1861.

Ayer's Cathartic Pills.

The Compiler

A DEMOCRATIC AND FAMILY JOURNAL.

By H. J. STAHL.

“TRUTH IS MIGHT AND WILL PREVAIL.”

TWO DOLLARS A-YEAR.

44th Year.

GETTYSBURG, PA., MONDAY, DEC. 23, 1861.

No. 13.

The Muse.

THE PICKET GUARD.
“All quiet along the Potomac,” they say,
“Except now and then a stray picket
Shot as he walks on his beat to and fro,
By a rifleman in the thicket.
‘Tis nothing—a private or two now and then,
Who’d not count in the news of the battle,
Not an officer lost—only one of the men,
Moaning out, all alone, the death rattle.”
All quiet along the Potomac, to-night,
While the soldiers lie peacefully dreaming,
Their trunks in the rays of the clear autumn moon.
Or the light of the watch-fires, gleaming
A tremulous sigh as the gentle night wind
Through the forest leaves softly is creeping,
While stars up above, with their glittering
Keeps guard for the army sleeping.
There’s only the sound of the lone sentry’s tread,
As he tramps from the rock to the fountain,
And thinks of the two in the low trunk-bed,
Far away in the out on the mountain.
His market falls slack—his face dark and grim,
Grows gentle with memories tender,
As he mutters a prayer for the children asleep,
For the mother—may Heaven defend her!
The moon seems to shine just as brightly as
Then,
That night, when the love yet unspoken,
Leaped up to his lips—when low murmured
They were pledged to be ever unbroken.
Then drawing his sleeve roughly over his eyes,
He dashes off tears that are willing,
And gets his gun closer up to its place,
As if to keep down the heart-swalling.
He paces the fountain, the blasted pine tree,
The footstep is lagging and weary;
Yet onward he goes through the broad belt of
Light,
Toward the shade of the forest so dreary.
Hark! was it the night-wind that rustled the
Leaves?
Was it the moonlight so wondrously shining?
It looked like a rifle—“Hark! Mary, good-bye!”
And the life-blood is ebbing and pulsing,
As if to keep down the heart-swalling.
All quiet along the Potomac, to-night,
No sound save the rush of the river,
While sentry on his beat on the forest dead,
—The picket’s off duty forever!

Miscellaneous.

The Power of Silence.
A good woman in Jersey was cruelly annoyed by a quarrelsome neighbor, who often visited and provoked a quarrel. She at last sought the counsel of her pastor, who added some common sense to his other good qualities. Having heard the story of her wrongs, he advised her to seek her neighbor in the chimney corner when next visited, take the tongue in her hands, and whenever a hard word came from her neighbor’s lips, gently snap the tongue, without uttering a word. A day or two afterwards the woman came again to her pastor, with a bright and laughing face, to communicate the effect of this new antidote for scolding. Her troubles had vanished, and, as usual, commenced her tirade. Snap! went the tongue. Another volley. Snap! Another still. Snap! “Why don’t you speak?” said the terminant, more enraged. Snap! “Do speak! I shall die if you don’t speak!” and away she went, cured of her malady by the magic of silence. It is poor work scolding a dead man, it is profitless beating the air. One-sided controversies do not last long, and generally end in victory for the silent party.

A Strong Stomach.
A western cattle dealer, who rarely had the privilege of sitting down to meat with a family, and who had never been in a minister’s house in his life, was not long ago enlightened and lost in his ride across the prairie, and compelled to stop for lodging in any house he could find. Happily for him, it was the house of a good man, a parson, who gave him a hearty welcome, and, what was especially agreeable, told him supper would soon be ready. The traveler’s appetite was ravenous, and the moment he was asked to sit by, he complied, and without waiting for a second invitation, he laid hold of what he could reach.
“Stop, stop!” said the good man of the house; “we are in the habit of saying something here before we eat.”
This hint to wait until the blessing was asked, the rough customer did not understand; but, with his mouth full, he muttered:
“Go ahead! my what you like! you can’t turn my stomach now!”
An English Subject in Fort Warren.—The Toronto Leader publishes a letter written by Mr. J. I. Shaver, now a prisoner in Fort Warren. He styles himself “a loyal subject of no offence against the United States government, and wants his friends to demand his release.”
Cannon at Cairo.—It is stated there are already one hundred and sixty-four pieces of cannon at Cairo, none of which are less than 32 pounders, and over one hundred tons of ammunition have arrived.

A telegram announces that Mr. Lovejoy has reported to the House a homestead bill. If Mr. Lovejoy would confine himself within his own homestead, the Providence Post thinks it would be a blessing to the country.

A Good Story.
Between eighty and ninety years ago there lived in Connecticut valley two farmers, one of whom was named Hunt and the other Clark. The former in early life had been a man of strong will and somewhat hasty and violent temper. Sometimes he had been seen beating his oxen over their heads with the handle of his whip, in a way to excite the pity of the bystanders, and when expostulated with excused himself by saying that he had the most fractious team in town. By and by an alteration took place in the temper of farmer Hunt. He became mild and forbearing, at equal pace with himself.
In the course of a few years the two farmers were chosen deacons of the church and they both adorned their profession. About the time of their election, a grievous famine prevailed in the valley, and the farmers generally were employed in laying up their corn to plant the ensuing season. A poor man living in town, went to Deacon Hunt and said: “I have come to buy a bushel of corn. Here is the money; it is all I can gather.” The deacon told him he could not spare a bushel for love or money. He was keeping double the usual quantity for seed corn the next year, and had to stint his own family. The man urged his suit in vain. At last he said, “Deacon, if you do not let me have the corn, I shall curse you.” “Curse me?” replied the deacon, “how dare you do so?” “Because,” said the man, “the Bible says so.” “Nonsense,” exclaimed the deacon; “there is no such thing in the Bible.” “Yes, there is,” replied the poor man. “Well,” said the deacon, “if you can find such a text, I’ll give you a bushel of corn.”
They went to the house, where the poor man went to the old family Bible, turned to Proverbs 11:26, and read: “He that withholdeth the corn, the people shall curse him; but blessings shall be upon the head that soweth seed.”
The deacon was fairly caught. “Come along, and I will be as good as my word,” he took him to the corn house, measured out a bushel of corn and helped the man to put it on his shoulder, and just before his departure, being somewhat of a wag, he said with a twinkle of the eye, “I say, neighbor, after you have earned this corn home, go to Deacon Clark and curse him out of a bushel.”
Did not Tell a Scholar for a Season—A few years since, Gen. McClellan offered his hand in marriage to Miss Ellen Mayne, a beautiful maiden on whom he had set his heart. The U. S. A. Col. Mayne objected to the union, on the sole ground that he could not consent to the marriage of his daughter to any gentleman belonging to the army. McClellan at once resigned his commission, and accepted the place of Chief Engineer upon the Illinois Central Railroad at a salary of \$8,000 a year, and three years since he was married to Miss Mayne, and now, having re-entered the army, is General Commanding-in-Chief.

Report of the Secretary of the Treasury.
Mr. Chase, the Secretary of the Treasury, submitted his annual report to Congress, on Monday week. The report is very lengthy and one of great importance, as in it we have the expenses of the government placed before us and the suggestions of the Secretary as to how the money is to be raised to meet the indebtedness. He says the expenses of the government, on the present army and navy footing for the year ending June 30, 1862, will be \$34,406,422. This amount he thinks will be raised as follows:
From Customs, lands, &c., \$36,809,721
Loans already realized, 197,242,588
Loans authorized, 75,449,675
Proceeds of direct tax, 20,000,000
Total, \$329,501,984
This leaves a deficit of \$215,994,128, to be provided for. The deficit he proposes to raise in three ways. The direct taxes of the loyal States to furnish twenty millions; duties on liquors, tobacco and other luxuries, twenty millions more; and the tax on incomes, ten millions. “It makes up the balance he proposes that the government shall issue \$150,000,000 in federal paper currency to take the place of compound bank notes.”
In order to raise revenue he recommends the taxing of tobacco, bank notes, carriage, legacies, stills and distilled liquors; and a further increase of duties on sugars, tea and coffee.
He thinks the war will be ended by the middle of next summer, but still he makes estimates for another year of warfare, after the 30th of June next. He estimates the amount of the national debt on the 1st of July, 1863, at one hundred million of dollars.

Northern Disunionists.
There are a great many disunionists in the northern States—worse than there are a greater number than most good people are apt to imagine. These enemies of the Union are continually prating about “slavery being the cause of the war,” “slavery must be abolished before the war can stop,” etc. Men who talk this way have no regard for the Constitution, and are as bad as any disunionists. The Government has no authority to abolish negro slavery in any State, and were it to do so it would be an act of usurpation, alike despotism in character and in its consequences. It would destroy the Union, and the nation would be bound by the terms of union which it had agreed to. The Constitution is binding upon all, in all its parts, or it is binding upon none. To urge the abolition of slavery by the government, therefore, is to urge disunion, to advocate secession, to demand a permanent separation of the States. Men who urge this suicidal policy upon the government, or defend it before the people, should be marked as disunionists—as aiding and comforting the rebellion—as seeking to involve the country in common anarchy and ruin. They are enemies to every principle of constitutional liberty. Had there not been abolitionists in the North, there would have been no secessionists in the South. It is only the terror of northern abolitionism that makes the rebellion the solid column that it is.—Greenbury Democrat.

Agony of the States.
The following chronological table cannot fail to command attention at this peculiar period:
1597. Virginia, by the English.
1623. New York, by the Dutch.
1620. Massachusetts, by the Puritans.
1624. New Jersey, by the Dutch.
1628. Delaware, by Swedes and Fins.
1635. Maryland, by Irish Catholics.
1636. Rhode Island, by Roger Williams.
1679. North Carolina, by the English.
1679. South Carolina, by the English.
1682. Pennsylvania, by Wm. Penn.
1732. Georgia, by Oglethorpe.
1792. Vermont, 1818. Illinois.
1792. Kentucky, 1819. Alabama.
1796. Tennessee, 1820. Maine.
1802. Ohio, 1822. Missouri.
1811. Louisiana, 1836. Michigan.
1816. Indiana, 1839. Arkansas.
1816. Mississippi, 1845. Florida.
1848. Texas, 1846. Iowa.
1849. Wisconsin, 1850. California.
1858. Minnesota, 1858. Oregon.
1861. Kansas.

How they do it.—A letter writer from Washington, in alluding to the various methods practiced for the purpose of depleting the Federal treasury, says that the beef contractors are in the habit of feeding their cattle, a few days before they are inspected, with as much hay as they can possibly eat—they next furnish them with as much salt as they will eat, and then give them as much water as they can possibly drink. Cattle thus treated will average about two hundred pounds more than their legal weight.

Attention, Post Masters.—Some Post Masters are in the habit of returning newspapers to the publishers, having “refused” or “not called for” written on the margin, without giving anything to indicate from what office the paper is returned. All such officials are hereby informed that it is their duty, when a paper is not lifted, to inform the publisher by letter, giving the reason, if known to the office.

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A Good Suggestion.—We endorse the suggestion of a contemporary that each subscriber to a good newspaper, after the family have read it, should put it up and send it with a one cent stamp to some friend in the army. Nothing is more welcome to the soldier than a home newspaper which gives all the local news, deaths, marriages, &c.

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Highly Important from England.
GREAT EXCITEMENT OVER THE SLIDELL AND MASON AFFAIR.
A Queen's Messenger Sent with Dispatches to Lord Lyons to Demand the Restoration of the Persons of the Southern Envoys.
VIEWS OF THE BRITISH PRESS.
LONDON, Dec. 15.—The Europa arrived here to-day from Liverpool, on the 30th ult., and Queenstown on the 2d inst., where she was detained until Monday, by order of the British government. She has the Queen's messenger on board, with dispatches for Lord Lyons.
London, Dec. 1st.—The Observer states that the government will demand from President Lincoln and his cabinet the restoration of the persons of the southern envoys to the British government.
Yesterday afternoon after five o'clock her Majesty held a Privy Council at Windsor Castle. Three of her Majesty's ministers, including the First Lord of Admiralty and Secretaries of State and War, traveled from London to Windsor by special train to be present. Previous to leaving town, the three ministers had attended a cabinet council at Lord Palmerston's official residence.

The Observer says a special messenger of foreign affairs has been ordered to carry our demands to Lord Lyons, and will proceed by packet from Queenstown to-day. The public will be satisfied to know that these demands are for an apology, and to insist on a restitution to the protection of the British flag of those who were violently and illegally torn from that sacred asylum.
The Observer adds: “There is no reason why they should not be restored to the quarters of a British Admiral at New York, or Washington itself, in the face of ten or twelve men of war, whose presence in the Potomac would render the blustering Cabinet at Washington as helpless as the Trent was before the guns and cutlasses of the San Jacinto. It is no fault of ours if it should come even to this.”

Arrangements for increasing the force in Canada are not yet complete, but in a very short time everything will be settled. In the meantime a large ship, the Melbourne, has been taken up and is now being loaded with Armstrong guns, some eighty thousand Enfield rifles, ammunition and other stores at Woolwich. It is not impossible that this vessel will be escorted by one or two ships of war. The rifles are intended for the Canadian militia, and strong reinforcements of field artillery will be despatched forthwith.
Lord Lyons' instructions, in which the Cabinet are said to be unanimous, are explicit and determined.
The Post says an acknowledgment of the error and a surrender of the prisoners will be received with great joy, but if the Federal government fails to do so, no man in England will blind his eyes to the alternative that England must do her duty.

The Times continues to assert that it has been Mr. Seward's policy to force a quarrel with England, and calls for energetic military preparations in Canada.
There has been a serious decline lately taking place in Canadian securities, amounting to 12 per cent.
The Times predicts three things to immediately follow the outbreak—namely: the destruction of the Southern blockade; the complete blockade of the Northern ports; and the recognition of the Southern Confederacy by France and England.
The Paris Argus pretty clearly that France will side with England and recognize the Southern Confederacy, and take a decided attitude in the international question.
The Liverpool Post gives a rumor that Napoleon has been proposed as arbitrator of the question between England and the United States.
The Americans in Paris paid a complimentary visit to Gen. Scott—Mr. Dayton acting as chairman.

THREE DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.
Arrival of the Steamer Washington off Cape Race.
St. John's, N. F., Dec. 15.—The newsboat of the associated press has arrived from Cape Race with the advices of the steamer City of Washington, from Liverpool via Queenstown on the 31st, intercepted off that point.
Queenstown, December 5.—The excitement in reference to the Slidell and Mason affair continues unabated.
The Paris Temps repeats the statement that Napoleon has tendered his services as a mediator.
A letter from Gen. Scott in favor of maintaining friendly relations between England and America attracts much attention.
The exportation of arms, ammunition and lead are prohibited.
The Paris Patrie has an editorial forecasting the disposition of France to recognize the Southern Confederacy if England sets the example.

The Daily News rejoices that Congress meets before the English demands can get out to America, and hopes that the golden opportunity will not be lost.
A large number of naval vessels have been ordered to be ready for immediate commission.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS—BASIS OF THE OPINION OF THE JURISTS.
The London Times says the depositions of the officers of the Trent have been submitted to the law officers of the crown, and their opinion has been given that the proceedings of the American frigate are not justified by the law of nations. It is, we understand, the opinion of these jurists that the right of the Federal government, acting by its officers, was confined to the visiting and the searching of the mail packet; that if any men or things, believed to be contraband of war, had been found on board of her, the proper course was to take her into port and submit the question to the prize courts, which would hear evidence and argument on both sides, and would have decided the case according to precedent and authorities. The Times observes that this proposition seems so clear that it requires only to be stated to obtain universal assent. The cabinet meets on Friday, to consider what action shall be taken on the opinion of the law officers. We do not wish to speculate as to what steps they may consider necessary. If Mason and Slidell were wrongly taken, they must be restored with sufficient apology.
The London Times of the 30th ult. makes the important announcement that the cabinet has come to the conclusion that the act of the captain of the San Jacinto in seizing passengers on a British vessel and carrying them forcibly away is a clear violation of the laws of nations, and one for which reparation must be at once demanded. In all probability the first steamer will carry out instructions to Lord Lyons to demand reparation for the ill-advised act of seizing Mason and Slidell while under the British flag. Should this just demand not be complied with, we cannot doubt that Lord Lyons will, under the instructions of his government, withdraw with the British legation from Washington.
We hope, says the Post, that the U. S. government will at once disavow the act of their officer, and make every compensation in their power. Wild as are the words written and spoken by Secretary Seward, and reckless as the American policy not infrequently is, we can hardly suppose that the northern States are seriously disposed to accept a war with England.
We have in the American waters including the Mexican expedition, and ships already there, a force amounting to not far short of one thousand guns, which we could largely increase with the greatest ease and rapidly. In one month we could sweep all the San Jacintos from the sea, blockade the Northern ports to turn to a direct and speedy issue the tide of war now raging. This is so obvious that we find it almost impossible to suppose that the Cabinet at Washington can commit an act so madly suicidal as to reject our earnest and positive demands.
VALUABLE VOLUNTEERS AND ARMY REINFORCEMENTS.
The export of salt-petre and warlike stores was formally forbidden. It was stated that one ship with a large cargo of salt-petre for America had been stopped, and that the re-handling of warlike stores, already shipped, had been required.
The naval volunteers were offering to come forward to protect the honor of the British flag.
The London News says: “Beneath everything there exists an unrecurrent of apprehension lest the American government really contemplate the desperate policy of seeking to fasten a quarrel on Great Britain, in order to gain a standing ground for abandoning its design of subjugating herself.”
The London Times (city article) says: “The universal impression seems to be that, in the present unhappy position in the eyes of the world, the United States government can scarcely command themselves so as to regulate their course by the light of law, reason or courtesy, and that although this opens a wide field of danger, it should also stimulate all other nations to exercise the utmost forbearance.”
The Newport Argus, speaking of the Thanksgiving Sermons preached in Boston, says: “If these sermons are to be regarded as the voice of the Boston Pulpit, they settle the question as to the object of the war, as the Pulpit understands it. They all unite in affirming that it is to put down the slave power. They all say so, in plain English. But the President, in the meantime, persists in declaring that such is not his purpose. Now, why don't he just send these Rev. gentlemen down to Fort Warren, as he has other people who have borne false witness against him? He might do so without either making or breaking anybody, if the Fort didn't gain more than the Pulpit would lose by such an operation.”

The President and the Union.—Washington letters say the pressure upon the President, to drive him into revolutionary and radical Abolitionism, has been great, very great, but he has withstood it so far, like a President, and his foot seems to be down. If now this policy becomes the fixed policy, and the South can read it, hear it, feel it, Unionism will drop out more and more, in Virginia, North Carolina, East Tennessee, and New Orleans. The cut throat policy of the Abolitionists is eternal war; while that of the President.—The Union must and shall be preserved.—is the tallman of the Union everywhere.

The Illinois Central Railroad Company are playing a very large game at cribbage. Along the line of their road, twelve miles south of Chicago, they are building eleven miles of corn cribs, the capacity of which will be 3,000,000 bushels. They are to receive corn in payment for lands purchased of the Company.

A man in Boston is exhibiting a new invention by which he makes boots in fifteen minutes.

Countersfeit two dollar notes on the Allegheny Bank of Pittsburg are in circulation in the interior of Pennsylvania.

If time is money, some people have a good deal more than they know what to do with.

Those who heed not God's writ must be forced to heed the Sheriff's.

GREAT FIRE IN CHARLESTON, S. C.
BRANCHVILLE, S. C., 36 miles from Charleston, Dec. 12.—Passengers who have just arrived here report a destructive fire last night at Charleston. The fire commenced in Charleston last night, Dec. 11, at 9 o'clock, in Russell & Co.'s saw factory, at the foot of Hazel street, and communicated on the opposite side of Hazel to Cameron & Co.'s machine shops. Under the impulse then given, and a stiff breeze, with a small supply of water, the conflagration assumed a formidable character, nearly quelling the most extensive conflagration on the American continent. The theatre, Ford's coach factory, opposite the express office, the old executive building and all the houses between that point and Queen street were burned. The whole of one side of Broad street is destroyed, from Colonel Gadsden's residence to Muesch street, and a considerable portion of the city, from East Bay to King street, is destroyed.

Among the prominent buildings burned are the Institute and St. Andrew's Hall, Theatre, Catholic Cathedral and the Circular Church. At last accounts from Charleston up to five o'clock this morning, Dec. 12th, the fire had crossed Broad street, and was sweeping furiously on. The telegraph lines to Charleston are down, consequently we are not able to state whether the fire has ceased or not.

BRANCHVILLE, Dec. 12th, 5 P. M.—The fire is still raging. A thousand homeless persons are huddled in the streets. The express train left Augusta this afternoon, with provisions to supply the wants of the sufferers, and men to assist in controlling the fire. The fire was the work of an incendiary.

In extent, the fire, so far as known, embraced a district of the city over one-half a mile long and one fourth wide.

The city of Charleston has suffered greater disasters by fire than almost any other city in the United States. In 1778 there were two hundred and fifty-two houses consumed; in 1796 nearly a third of the city was destroyed, involving a loss of property to the amount of \$2,500,000. Again, in the great fire of 1838, the loss was estimated at \$5,000,000.

A Prediction.—The Mr. Vernon Banner says: “We predict that in less than one year from this time the Abolitionists will be denouncing President Lincoln as they abused John Tyler in 1841, when he refused to carry out their darling measures. And we further predict that the Republican party will go to destruction by the weight of its corruption, and that our present difficulties will be at length settled by the Democracy.”

In consequence of the payment of several months wages to the volunteers of Lehigh county, by the Government, the County Commissioners have concluded to temporarily suspend the payment of the weekly allowance to their families, on the ground that if the earnings of the soldiers are properly appropriated there is no pecuniary assistance necessary from other sources.

The New York Journal of Commerce says that “New York city could send a petition with the names of 50,000 voters at least, and we think it safe to say with sixty-five thousand, against the pet schemes of the Abolitionists. We have said that the President might one day find his firmest supporters in the Democrats. The day seems to be at hand. Conservative Republicans and Democrats must rally to the support of the President, the Constitution and the Union.”

Senator Wilson having got up a bill to abolish the office of sutler in the army, some law firm in Washington City has hatched a scheme to make money out of the sutlers by raising a large fund to defeat the bill. A circular soliciting money has been sent to each sutler. Will this be permitted.

The Albany Argus says Mr. Croswell's letter, which the Emancipationists have claimed as favorable to their views, “is an argument against the emancipation policy, and which declared that the advocates of emancipation are laboring, as effectually as the secessionists, for the dissolution of the Union.”

The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Inquirer says it appears to be well settled that Mr. Lincoln is President, and this being now fully understood, there should be no occasion for Cabinet difficulties hereafter like those which have just occurred.

A proposition for enlisting 200,000 additional volunteers will be introduced in Congress, and it is understood to meet the approval of the Secretary of War.

Ladies Included.—A few days since, Saxo, in making a speech at a flag raising at Albany, concluded his remarks by proposing three cheers for the young gentlemen of East Albany, through whose liberality the flag had been procured. As the cheers were about to be given, the chairman of the occasion amended the proposition of Mr. Saxo, so that the cheers went up for

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the latest spring styles, em-
and Vernon, which we are
duced prices, at
R. F. McILMENT'S.

